

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A data distribution system comprising:

2 partial data preliminary distribution means for distributing partial data, comprising a
3 part of distribution data, together with attribute data including the price of the distribution
4 data, to a storage region provided in each user side;

5 partial data reproduction release means for which, when the indicates a decision user
6 ~~side has decided~~ to purchase the partial data distributed by the partial data preliminary
7 distribution means or ~~the remaining a remaining~~ undistributed part of the distribution data,
8 rendering reproducible renders the partial data, except for the attribute data, ~~reproducible from~~
9 a time ~~the time~~ of the decision at the earliest; and

10 remaining distribution data distribution means for which, upon ~~the receipt~~ of a request
11 from the user side for the distribution of the undistributed remaining part of the data
12 corresponding to the partial data, distributing ~~distributes~~ the remaining distribution data to the
13 user who has requested the distribution of the remaining data.

1 2. (Currently Amended) A data distribution system comprising:

2 partial data preliminary distribution means for distributing partial data, comprising a
3 part of distribution data, together with attribute data including the price of the distribution
4 data, to a storage region provided in each user side;

5 partial data reproduction release means for which, when the ~~userside has~~
6 ~~decided~~ indicates a decision to purchase the partial data distributed by the partial data
7 preliminary distribution means or ~~the remaining a remaining~~ undistributed part of the
8 distribution data, rendering reproducible renders the partial data, except for the attribute data,
9 ~~reproducible from a time~~ ~~the time~~ of the decision at the earliest;

10 payment ability judgment means for which, upon the receipt of a request from the user
11 side for the distribution of a part or the whole of the undistributed remaining part of the data
12 corresponding to the partial data, judging ~~judges~~ whether or not the user, who has requested
13 the distribution of the a part or the whole of the undistributed remaining part of the
14 distribution data, can pay the equivalent to the distribution data;

requested data distribution means for which, when the judgment by the result of the payment ability judgment means is that the user can pay the equivalent, distributing ~~distributes~~ the requested data to the corresponding user side;

accounting means for which, when the distribution of the requested data by the requested data distribution means to the user side has been confirmed, performing ~~performs~~ accounting of the distribution data for the user; and

requested data reproduction release means for rendering ~~which renders~~ the remaining part of the data, which has been distributed by the requested data distribution means upon the completion of the accounting by the accounting means, usable on the user side.

3. (Currently Amended) A data distribution system comprising:

partial data preliminary distribution means for distributing partial data to a storage region provided in each user side, said partial data including ~~comprising~~ a part of distribution data for which a time ~~the time~~ of the start of use has been fixed, together with attribute data, which can be disclosed before the arrival of the time of start of use, including at least one of the time of start of use and ~~and/or~~ the price of the distribution data, before the arrival of the time of start of use, ~~to a storage region provided in each user side;~~

partial data reproduction release means for which, when the user indicates a decision ~~side has decided to purchase~~ the partial data distributed by the partial data preliminary distribution means or a remaining ~~the remaining~~ undistributed part of the distribution data, rendering reproducible ~~renders~~ the partial data, except for the attribute data, ~~reproducible from~~ the fixed time of the start of use at the earliest; and

remaining distribution data distribution means for which, after the fixed time of the start of use, upon the receipt of a request from the user side for the distribution of the undistributed remaining part of the data corresponding to the partial data, distributing ~~distributes~~ the remaining distribution data to the user who has requested the distribution of the remaining data.

4. (Currently Amended) A data distribution system comprising:

partial data preliminary distribution means for distributing partial data, comprising a part of distribution data for which the time of the start of use has been fixed, together with attribute data, which can be disclosed before the arrival of the time of start of use, including

at least one of the time of start of use ~~and~~ and/or the price of the distribution data, before the arrival of time of the start of use, to a storage region provided in each user side;

partial data reproduction release means which, when the user indicates a decision side ~~has decided to purchase~~ the partial data distributed by the partial data preliminary distribution means or the remaining undistributed part of the distribution data, renders the partial data except for the attribute data reproducible from the time of the start of use at the earliest;

payment ability judgment means which, after the fixed time of the start of use, upon the receipt of a request from the user side for the distribution of a part or the whole of the undistributed remaining part of the data corresponding to the partial data, judges whether or not the user, who has requested the distribution of a part or the whole of the undistributed remaining part of the distribution data, can pay the equivalent to the distribution data;

requested data distribution means which, when the judgment by the payment ability judgment means is that the user can pay the equivalent, distributes the requested data to the corresponding user side;

accounting means which, when the distribution of the requested data to the user side by the requested data distribution means has been confirmed, performs accounting of the distribution data for the user; and

requested data reproduction release means which renders the remaining part of the data, which has been distributed by the requested data distribution means upon the completion of the accounting by the accounting means, usable on the user side.

5. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the remaining distribution data is divided into a plurality of parts and which further comprises distribution interval regulation means that regulates the interval of the distribution of the remaining distribution data for each divided unit to the user according to the progress of a ~~the~~ reproduction of the distribution data by the user.

6. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the distribution data are distributed through a radio network.

7. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 2, which further comprises means, for balance processing during sales processing, that, when the result of the judgment by the payment ability judgment means is that the user can pay the

4 equivalent, issues a sales code indicating, that sales processing is under execution, and
5 subtracts an amount ~~the amount~~ of money to be paid from the user's balance to determine a
6 new balance value.

1 8. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 7,
2 which further comprises means, for establishing the balance at the time of ~~the~~ completion of
3 accounting, that, when accounting has been performed by the accounting mean, discards the
4 sales code to establish the balance.

1 9. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 7,
2 wherein a period ~~the period~~ of validity is provided in the sales code and which further
3 comprises means, for establishing the balance at a time ~~the time~~ of no charging, that, when the
4 period of validity has expired, returns the new balance value, obtained by subtracting an ~~the~~
5 equivalent value from the balance, to the original value based on recognition that the payment
6 corresponding to an ~~the~~ issued sales code has not been made.

1 10. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 2,
2 wherein the remaining distribution data is divided into a plurality of parts and which further
3 comprises distribution interval regulation means that regulates the interval of the distribution
4 of the remaining distribution data for each divided unit to the user according to ~~the~~ progress
5 of a ~~the~~ reproduction of the distribution data by the user.

1 11. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 3,
2 wherein the remaining distribution data is divided into a plurality of parts and which further
3 comprises distribution interval regulation means that regulates the interval of the distribution
4 of the remaining distribution data for each divided unit to the user according to ~~the~~ progress
5 of a ~~the~~ reproduction of the distribution data by the user.

1 12. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 4,
2 wherein the remaining distribution data is divided into a plurality of parts and which further
3 comprises distribution interval regulation means that regulates the interval of the distribution
4 of the remaining distribution data for each divided unit to the user according to ~~the~~ progress
5 of a ~~the~~ reproduction of the distribution data by the user.

1 13. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system according to claim 2,
2 wherein the distribution data are distributed through a radio network.

1 14. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system according to claim 3,
2 wherein the distribution data are distributed through a radio network.

1 15. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system according to claim 4,
2 wherein the distribution data are distributed through a radio network.

1 16. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 4,
2 which further comprises means, for balance processing during sales processing, that, when
3 the result of the judgment by the payment ability judgment means is that the user can pay the
4 equivalent, issues a sales code indicating, that sales processing is under execution, and
5 subtracts an the amount of money to be paid from a the user's balance to determine a new
6 balance value.

1 17. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 16,
2 which further comprises means, for establishing athe balance at the time of the completion of
3 accounting, that, when accounting has been performed by the accounting mean, discards the
4 sales code to establish the balance.

1 18. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 2 which
2 further comprises means, for balance processing during sales processing, that, when the result
3 of the judgment by the payment ability judgment means is that the user can pay the
4 equivalent, issues a sales code indicating, that sales processing is under execution, and
5 subtracts an amount of money to be paid from a user's balance to determine a new balance
6 value~~16, which further comprises means, for establishing the balance at the time of the~~
7 ~~completion of accounting, that, when accounting has been performed by the accounting~~
8 ~~mean, discards the sales code to establish the balance.~~